

**To:** EOC Public Information[EOC\_Public\_Information@epa.gov]; Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]; Press[Press@epa.gov]; Gentile, Laura[Gentile.Laura@epa.gov]  
**From:** David Gray  
**Sent:** Sun 8/23/2015 12:01:51 AM  
**Subject:** CLOSED - AP

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**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2015 5:13 PM  
**To:** 'Brown, Matthew'  
**Subject:** RE: Request

Hi Matt,

Nancy and David again. The impoundments were not completed at the time of the accidental release.

David

**From:** Brown, Matthew [mailto:MBrown@ap.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2015 3:46 PM  
**To:** Gray, David  
**Subject:** RE: Request

Thanks David.

Another followup-

The statement of work also mentions work that would be done to control the water within the impoundment and treat it "to prevent an uncontrolled release." Also mentions a temporary water

retention and sludge management pond would be in place.

Were those measures put in place prior to the excavation work that led to spill? If not, why not?

Thanks-

Matt Brown

**Matthew Brown**

Associated Press Correspondent

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**From:** Gray, David [<mailto:gray.david@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2015 3:04 PM

**To:** Brown, Matthew

**Subject:** Request

**Hey Matt,**

**David and Nancy here are more responses.**

**Could you please provide more details on work to eliminate blockages? Also is**

**there an estimate of how much water remains in the mine? What is potential for another blow out?**

EPA's contractor, Environmental Restoration, LLC action and work plan released online yesterday outlines the activities at the site. We do not have an estimate of the amount of water remaining in the mine. Yes, there is a potential for another blow out at the mine.

**And regarding documents, it appears EPA was aware of potential for "a blow out of the blockages"; what precautions were taken to account for that?**

EPA's Task Order Statement of Work from 6/25/14 identifies our assignment to the contractor to prepare plans to address a release at the mine. It identifies the potential and outlines the necessary steps to address it.

**Should more precautions have been taken? Did EPA share that with state officials? Local officials? Were personnel on site when spill occurred aware?**

The Department of Interior is conducting an independent review of the release which will determine the adequacy of the activities leading up to the incident. We are not speculating on the findings of this independent review. In addition, EPA is conducting its own internal technical examination of the incident.

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